

Burney Resource Group
22092 Widgeon Court
Burney, CA 96013

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
State Energy Resource
Conservation and Development Commission

In the Matter of:
Application for the
Certification of Three
(Ogden Energy, Inc.)

DOCKET NO. 99-AFC-2

Re: Testimony of Mr. J. Robert
Murray for March 7, 2000
Evidentiary Hearing
Subject: Noise

Enclosed for docketing on behalf of the Burney Resource Group are the original and 12 copies of the testimony of Mr. J. Robert Murray for the March 7 evidentiary hearing concerning the application of Three Mountain Power Plant. This filing will be via electronic mail and U.S. Mail.

Respectfully submitted,

The Burney Resource Group

Jim Crockett, for the Burney Resource Group

Date: February 17, 2000

Enclosures: Proof Of Service

DECLARATION OF J. ROBERT MURRAY

My name is J. Robert (Bob) Murray. I live at 37467 Vedder Road, near the town of Burney, California. I have lived in this area for 25 years. I am a member of the Burney Resource Group (BRG), which is an intervenor in the California Energy Commission's certification proceeding for the Three Mountain Power Project (99-AFC-2)

I am a retired Technical Foreman from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company. In my 30 years of service with PG&E, I worked in numerous generating facilities (Hydro, Steam, and Nuclear) and supervised Pre-parallel inspections of Qualifying Facilities (QFs) and Cogeneration units (including Burney Mountain Power). As a technician I often used test equipment, such as a Frequency Selective Voltmeter and Power Meters calibrated in decibels (dB). A great deal of my work involved setting levels on data and communications equipment, such as Microwave, Multiplex Channeling, and data lines. I have a reasonable understanding of decibels. Since retiring from PG&E, I have worked at numerous generating facilities as a contractor or consultant. These jobs include the installation of California ISO (CAISO) metering at various generating facilities, verifying CAISO metering at Pittsburg Power Plant, and most recently as Field Engineer for CAISO on their Generator Communication Project (GCP). On this project, I oversaw or assisted in the design of Remote Intelligent Gateway (RIG) site installations and databases for more than 40 Hydro facilities and four bay area generating facilities (including the Crockett Cogeneration facility). This project allowed me to visit more than 30 generating facilities during 1999 alone. Both my training and experience have given me a reasonable understanding of generating facilities.

My wife and I purchased 5 acres off of Vedder Road in January of 1979. We then designed and built our home with an emphasis placed on the view and sounds of the valley. To take full advantage of the view and sounds, as most Vedder Road residents do, we built our house on the southernmost portion of our lot with no trees between our house and the valley (Exhibit A). Thus we have little cover to attenuate any sounds or noises. The valley often supports Canada geese, duck, quail, bald eagles, coyote, deer, an occasional elk, bullfrogs, horses, and of course cattle. The sounds of the water, animals, and foul vary by season and the time of day (Exhibit B). We have lived in this house since prior to the construction of Ultra-Power, now Burney Mountain Power, and noted the increase in noise due to its operation. I have familiarized myself with the various sounds and noises coming from the Burney direction and the valley (Exhibit C).

The information in this declaration is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. From my home, I can hear the noise coming from both Burney Mountain Power and the PG&E gas compressor station. The loudness of the noise varies depending upon weather, atmospheric, and operating conditions (Exhibit D) (Exhibit E). Having worked at both facilities and being able to observe the vapor flumes from Burney Mountain Power, I can usually determine which facility is making the noise. Both facilities can be loud enough to make it difficult to sleep, at times making it necessary for us to close our windows.
2. For the past year or so, Burney Mountain Power has, in addition to its normal operating noise, developed a squeal. I believe this squeal is coming from the fuel conveyance system and have reported it to Ogden. I was glad the plant shut down during Christmas week and again in early January, perhaps a maintenance outage will result in the elimination of the squeal.
3. The Three Mountain Power noise report states (page 6.4-1), The principle human response to environmental noise is annoyance. The response of individuals to similar noise events is diverse and influenced by the type of noise, the perceived importance of the noise and its appropriateness in the setting, the time of day, and the sensitivity of the individual hearing the sound. I believe a small semi-rural town (page 6.4-16) is not an appropriate setting to be increasing noise when the Best Available Technology (BAT) can prevent it. The report also states, TMP is designing to (page 6.4-27) reduce property line noise exposure to levels that meet Shasta County's conditionally acceptable property line CNEL of 75dBA. Using the BAT this is not appropriate for the setting. The Crockett

Cogeneration is located approximately 200 feet from Loring Street and meets a 53dB requirement. The power of noise doubles with each 3dB increase in level. I believe TMP should have a property line noise requirement, as the USEPA recommends, in the 55dBA range.

4. The Ambient Site Noise level measurements were only collected for approximately 48 hours on November 6 through November 8, 1998 (page 6.4-9). On at least one of those days it was snowing. The report states the Larson Davis meters were facing the project, but gives no mention of how directional the antenna was. This could be anything from a whip antenna to a parabolic antenna. The report also does not give the status of Burney Mountain Power or the PG&E gas compressor station. The report states (page 6.4-16) the difference between these two levels (Leq 58 & 63 dBA and L90 43 & 48 dBA) is directly attributable to the intermittent nature of automobile traffic and other sources from afar. I believe the sources from afar could be Burney Mountain Power and/or the PG&E Gas compressor station but due to lack of information, this cannot be determined. This same page does say, No unusual noise sources within the towns of Johnson Park or Burney were noted. I do not believe these two noise sources could be considered usual for the semi-rural setting. With the limited atmospheric conditions found in November, lack of data, and the questions about data collection, I feel this test should be re-run. I know how loud the sources can be when the conditions are right.
5. My hearing is substantially impaired to all frequencies above 3000 Hz. The report states for power generation sites (page 6.4-22) The dominant spectral content lies within the 500 to 2000 Hz. frequency band. This band is very similar to the telephone industry standard of C-message weighting. In other words, the frequencies of noise generated at these facilities, is almost identical to what the human ear can hear over the telephone. These frequencies are the very frequencies we normally hear in normal conversation. I do believe we should attempt to lower the level of these noises to the USEA guideline level as the Crockett facility did.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. This declaration is signed near Burney, California.



Signed :

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Date: February 17, 2000

EXHIBITS

(Please note that under both overcast and clear weather conditions, the plumes are visible at all times of the day, from early morning to evening.)

A: View of Valley:



B: View of Bald Eagle from house:



C: Direction of Burney and Valley from home



D: Summer Conditions with Plume and noise



E: Winter Plume and noise:

